

United States Government**Department of Energy
Rocky Flats Project Office**

memorandum

DATE: NOV 08 2004

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: OOM:FRL:04-00855

SUBJECT: Rocky Flats Response to Electrical Safety Performance Challenge

TO: Paul M. Golan, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management, EM-1

REFERENCE: Jessie Hill-Roberson memo, Electrical Safety Performance Challenges and Goals,
July 13, 2004


In response to the subject letter, the Rocky Flats Project Office (RFPO) has taken several actions to improve our electrical safety performance. Due to near-miss events on site, Rocky Flats was already well into the cycle of alarm at the events, analysis, and corrective action when the Environmental Management memo was received. As such, we did not develop another corrective action plan, but continued with implementation of corrective actions already approved and underway. The major elements of those corrective actions are as follows:

- Between April 12 and May 13, 2004 Rocky Flats experienced four serious near-miss electrical events. Our concern was communicated to Kaiser-Hill (K-H) through several face-to-face meetings and discussed in weekly Union-Management safety meetings.
- On May 17, 2004 K-H initiated a site-wide review of electrical safety utilizing a new approach with extensive use of digital pictures of good and bad observed conditions. These pictures served to reinforce and clarify the underlying causes of electrical safety issues, and also were utilized directly in the worker training material (attachment 1) provided to all employees in a safety pause.
- RFPO issued a fee penalty memo (attachment 2) of \$150,000 on July 19, 2004 based on the electrical events in April and May. The penalty was mitigated by \$50,000 due to the K-H timely, comprehensive, and focused correction efforts.
- K-H responded July 22, 2004 with a letter (attachment 3) outlining their corrective actions which have been implemented and are continuing with emphasis from the Executive Safety Review Board.

Rocky Flats has had several additional electrical safety events since July 2004, however the frequency of events has diminished, and engineered barriers and administrative controls implemented as part of the corrective actions have precluded injury to workers. In particular, the use of GFSI protection on all 480V temporary power and mandatory electrical PPE for any electrical work have prevented any injuries, or even an electrical shock reaching a worker.

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Electrical safety and the other "Big 5" industrial hazards will continue to have my daily, direct attention until we successfully complete closure. I can answer any questions related to this response, or they may be directed to Ed Westbrook at 303-966-7074.



Frazer R. Lockhart
Manager

Attachments as stated

cc w/o Att:

I. Triay, EM-3

P. Bubar, EM-3.2